

CLAIMS

1. An artistic pane for creating a desired visual effect, the artistic pane comprising:

a unitary body having a central region and a marginal region disposed about the central region;

the central region having a generally planar first portion and a plurality of second portions laterally offset from the first portion; and

the marginal region being at least substantially planar and being offset laterally with respect to the first portion of the central region.

2. The artistic pane of claim 1 wherein each of the second portions of the central region has an apex, at least some of the apexes being flat.

3. The artistic pane of claim 1 wherein each of the second portions of the central region has an apex, at least some of the apexes being rounded.

4. The artistic pane of claim 1 wherein the pane is translucent.

5. The artistic pane of claim 1 wherein the pane is transparent.

6. The artistic pane of claim 1 wherein the pane is clear.

7. The artistic pane of claim 1 wherein the marginal region extends around an entire perimeter of the central region.

8. The artistic pane of claim 1 wherein the pane is glass.

9. The artistic pane of claim 1 wherein the pane is glass formed through a slumping process.

10. The artistic pane of claim 1 wherein the pane is glass formed through a rolling process.

11. The artistic pane of claim 1 wherein the pane is glass formed through a sagging process.

12. The artistic pane of claim 1, further comprising a frame receiving the pane at the marginal region, wherein the frame comprises a part of a window.

13. The artistic pane of claim 1, further comprising a frame receiving the pane at the marginal region, wherein the frame comprises a came from a decorative window.

14. The artistic pane of claim 1, further comprising a frame receiving the pane at the marginal region, wherein the frame comprises a came from a decorative window, the artistic pane being combined with other panes to form a window.

15. The artistic pane of claim 1, further comprising a frame receiving the pane at the marginal region, wherein the frame comprises a part of a door.

16. The artistic pane of claim 1, further comprising a frame receiving the pane at the marginal region, wherein the boundaries between the first and second portions being curved.

17. The artistic pane of claim 1 wherein the central portion is at least substantially rectangular in shape.

18. A window for creating a desired visual effect, the window comprising:

a frame;

an artistic pane received within the frame, the artistic pane having a unitary body with a central region and a marginal region disposed about the central region;

the central region having a generally planar first portion and a plurality of second portions laterally offset from the first portion; and

the marginal region being at least substantially planar and being offset laterally with respect to the first portion of the central region.

19. The window of claim 18 wherein the frame is a window frame.

20. The window of claim 18 wherein the frame is a lite frame in a door.

21. The window of claim 18 wherein the frame is a lite frame in a French door.

22. The window of claim 18 wherein the frame is a came and the window is a decorative window comprising other panes.

23. The window of claim 18 wherein the frame is a came and the window is a decorative window comprising other panes, some of the other panes being artistic panes.

24. The window of claim 18 wherein the window also comprises other panes.

25. A device for use in forming artistic panes of glass in an oven, the device comprising:

a support member having an upper surface made from a refractory material, the support member being configured to fit within the oven with the upper surface facing upward during use; and

at least one raised boundary member positioned on the upper surface of the support member, each of the at least one raised boundary members being disposed around a respective enclosed portion of the upper surface of the support member, an inner edge portion of each of the raised boundary members adjacent the respective enclosed portions of the support member being planar and having an upper surface made from a refractory material; whereby

a sheet of glass placed over both the inner edge portion of the at least one raised boundary member and the enclosed portion of the support member heated above a thermoplastic temperature will sag against the enclosed portion of the support member, but will remain planar along the inner edge portion.

26. The device of claim 25 wherein the support member and the raised boundary member are separate parts.

27. The device of claim 25 wherein the support member is at least substantially planar.

28. The device of claim 25 wherein the upper surface of the support member is at least substantially planar.

29. The device of claim 25 wherein the support member comprises a ceramic material.

30. The device of claim 25 wherein the support member comprises [M-board].

31. The device of claim 25 wherein the inner edge of the raised boundary member is rectilinear.

32. The device of claim 25 wherein the inner edge of the raised boundary member is rectangular.

33. The device of claim 25 wherein the raised boundary member comprises a ceramic material.

34. The device of claim 25, wherein the enclosed portion of the upper surface is textured to deform the shape of the artistic pane when it sags against the support member.

35. The device of claim 25, further comprising at least one obstruction configured to be placed against the enclosed portion of the upper surface during use to deform the shape of the artistic pane when it sags against the support member.

36. The device of claim 25, further comprising at least one ceramic mass configured to be placed against the enclosed portion of the upper surface during use to deform the shape of the artistic pane when it sags against the support member.

37. The device of claim 25, further comprising a plurality of ceramic masses configured to be placed against the enclosed portion of the upper surface during use to deform the shape of the artistic pane when it sags against the support member.

38. The device of claim 25, further comprising a ceramic powder configured to be dispersed against the enclosed portion of the upper surface during use to deform the shape of the artistic pane when it sags against the support member.

39. A method for forming an artistic pane to create a desired visual effect, the method comprising:

heating a sheet of material to a temperature in excess of a thermoplastic point for the material;

deforming a central portion of the sheet of material into a complex shape; and

retaining a marginal portion of the sheet of glass in a planar shape, the marginal portion being disposed around the central portion.

40. The method of claim 39 wherein the material is glass, and wherein heating the sheet of material comprises placing the glass in an oven.

41. The method of claim 39 wherein the material is glass, and wherein deforming a central portion of the material comprises slump forming the central portion of the material.

42. The method of claim 39 wherein the material is glass, and wherein deforming a central portion of the material comprises roll forming the central portion of the material.

43. The method of claim 39 wherein the material is glass, and wherein deforming a central portion of the material comprises sag forming the central portion of the material.

44. The method of claim 39 wherein the material is glass, and wherein deforming a central portion of the material comprises slump forming the glass over at least one mass.

45. The method of claim 39 wherein the material is glass, and wherein deforming a central portion of the material comprises slump forming the glass over a plurality of masses.

46. The method of claim 39 wherein the material is glass, and wherein deforming a central portion of the material comprises slump forming the glass over a plurality of ceramic masses.

47. The method of claim 39 wherein the material is glass, and wherein deforming a central portion of the material comprises slump forming the glass over a plurality of masses of ceramic powder.

48. The method of claim 39, further comprising cutting an outer edge of the margin portion into the shape of a window frame, and inserting the artistic pane into the window frame.

49. The method of claim 39, further comprising cutting an outer edge of the margin portion into a geometric shape, and inserting the artistic pane into a came for a decorative window.

50. The method of claim 39, further comprising cutting an outer edge of the margin portion into a geometric shape, and inserting the artistic pane a came for a lite in a door.

51. A device for use in forming artistic panes of glass in an oven having a support member with an upper surface made from a refractory material, the device comprising:

a raised boundary member positionable on the upper surface of the support member around an enclosed portion of the upper surface of the support member, an inner edge portion of the raised boundary member that is located to be adjacent the respective enclosed portion of the support member being planar and having an upper surface made from a refractory material; whereby

a sheet of glass placed over both the inner edge portion of the raised boundary member and the enclosed portion of the support member being heated above a thermoplastic temperature will sag against the enclosed portion of the support member, but will remain planar along the inner edge portion of the raised boundary member.